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## A NEW THYASIRA (PELECYPODA) FROM THE ROSS SEA, ANTARCTICA

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Thyasiridae: *Thyasira* Lamarck, 1818

Type-species. (monotypy) *Tellina flexuosa* Montagu, 1803.

Thyasira dearborni Nicol, new species. Plate 8, lower figs. 1-2

Type repository — Division of Mollusks, U. S. National Museum. Holotype cat. no. 653099; paratypes cat. nos. 612770 and 635392.

Description—Shell thin, small, porcellanous, somewhat chalky; color varying from white to pale yellow; periostracum thin, yellow; a ferruginous, buff coating present at the anterior and posterior ends of the shell; equivalved; without a gape; anterior and ventral borders arcuate, postero-ventral area indented in the region of the constriction, remainder of posterior border gently rounded, dorsal border short and sloping both anteriorly and posteriorly; posterior one-eighth of the shell strongly constricted or flattened; holotype 4.8 mm. high and long, one paratype 4.9 mm. high and long, the other paratype 5.0 mm. high and 4.9 mm. long; no prodissoconch; beaks prosogyrate, contiguous; surface ornamentation consists of numerous concentric lines; interior margins of shell smooth; adductor muscle scars and pallial line not seen; ligament external, opisthodetic; hinge edentulous and hinge plate absent.

This species is named in honor of Mr. John H. Dearborn of Stanford University who collected the holotype and one of the two paratypes.

Comparisons — *Thyasira dearborni* can be easily distinguished from the more common *Axinopsida bongraini* (Lamy) by the prominent constriction on the posterior side of the shell, and this morphologic feature also distinguishes *Thyasira dearborni* from *Axinopsida magellanica* (Dall) because the latter species has only a shallow sulcus on the posterior side. *Thyasira falklandica* (E. A. Smith) is a much larger species with a well-developed greenish periostracum.

Habitat — The holotype was collected at a depth of 836 meters from a bottom of gravel and pebbles. One paratype was found at a depth of 695 m. associated with a sponge-gorgonacean complex. The other paratype was found at a depth of 640 m. on a bottom of coarse glacial till.

Geographic distribution—The holotype of *Thyasira dearborni* was discovered by Mr. Dearborn at 73°46.7′S., 169°09′E., off Coulman Island in the Ross Sea. One paratype, also found by Mr. Dearborn, came from 76°11.6′S., 164°46′E., in the Ross Sea. The other paratype was collected by the Deepfreeze I Expedition and came from 77°38′S., 163°11′W., Kainan Bay, Ross Sea. This uncommon species may be endemic to the Ross Sea region, and it certainly appears to live only in rather deep water—more than 600 m.

Mr. W. J. Byas, museum specialist in the Division of Mollusks at the U. S. National Museum, cleaned the holotype so that it could be photographed.

Mr. David H. Massie of the U. S. Geological Survey made the photographs of *Thyasira dearborni.*

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